

**House of Representatives
Local Government
Committee Meeting Schedule - Interim 2004**

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMMITTEE	SUBJECT	TYPE
June 17	TBA	Ocean Shores	Full Committee	Growth Management Act Updates (Meeting in conjunction with Association of Washington Cities 2004 Annual Conference)	Work Session
July 20	TBA	Friday Harbor	Full Committee	Accessory Dwelling Units & the Growth Management Act	Work Session
August 3-4	TBA	1) Dayton; and 2) Walla Walla	Full Committee	1) Local Government Finance; and 2) Growth Management Act Updates	Work Sessions
September 21	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Examining Housing Costs	Work Session
December 2	TBA	Olympia	Full Committee	Status Updates: 1) Blue Ribbon Commission on Land Use and Local Government Finance; and 2) Growth Management Act Working Group	Work Session

Project Title: Growth Management Act Updates

Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to examine Growth Management Act update requirements and related policy considerations.

Project Description:

Nine western Washington counties and the cities within those counties are required by December 1, 2004, to review and, if needed, revise their comprehensive land use plans and development regulations to ensure compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA). During the 2004 interim, the Committee will examine the GMA update requirements and related policy considerations, including modified review and revision proposals specified in SSB 6592, legislation that was considered but not enacted in 2004. As part of this examination, the Committee will hold two work sessions regarding this issue, one each in western and eastern Washington. The western Washington work session will be held at the annual Association of Washington Cities conference in June. Complementing and contrasting the Committee's 2003 interim meetings in northeastern Washington, the 2004 eastern Washington work session will be held in August in Walla Walla.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Sessions on 6/17/04 and 8/4/04.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Accessory Dwelling Units and Land Use Planning Under the Growth Management Act

Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to examine issues relating to the regulation of accessory dwelling units under the Growth Management Act.

Project Description:

Accommodating the housing provisions of the Growth Management Act (the GMA) while simultaneously satisfying the other goals and mandates of the GMA will continue to require careful consideration of planning objectives and practices. A 2003 decision by the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board, later affirmed by the Thurston County Superior Court, invalidated a San Juan County ordinance regulating the location of "accessory dwelling units" (ADUs) adjacent to single family residences. This decision affected the citizens of San Juan Island and highlighted issues relating to the requirements of the GMA and its impacts on the development and preservation of affordable housing. The Committee will examine legislative responses to accommodating ADUs, including HB 3028, legislation that was considered but not enacted in 2004. The project will include a work session in Friday Harbor on San Juan Island in order to explore relevant background and policy considerations.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session on 7/20/04.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Ethan Moreno & Thamas Osborn

Project Title: Local Government Finance Issues

Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to examine the causes of, and potential solutions to, various fiscal problems currently being faced by cities and counties.

Project Description:

As the result of the downturn in the national economy as well as decreasing state and local tax revenues, cities and counties are finding it difficult to maintain their financial viability while continuing to provide adequate services to the public. During the 2004 session, the Legislature considered, but did not pass, HJR 4215, which was designed to address this issue at the county level by proposing a constitutional amendment granting two or more counties the authority to merge or consolidate any function or structure. The stated purpose of the amendment was to promote "efficiency, cost savings, and improved service" by granting broad authority to counties to engage in cooperative endeavors.

This project will examine the causes of, and potential solutions to, various fiscal problems currently being faced by cities and counties. The project will include an examination of the ways in which cities and counties might merge or consolidate certain functions and/or government structures in order to reduce costs and to more efficiently provide services to the public. The Committee's 2003 interim activities included a work session in Spokane regarding local government finance issues. During the 2004 interim, the Committee will again hold a work session on this issue in eastern Washington, this time in the southeastern city of Dayton.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session on 8/3/04.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn & Ethan Moreno

Project Title: Issues Related to Affordable Housing

Project Goal:

The goal of this project is to examine a variety of topics related to the availability of affordable housing.

Project Description:

Although the current rate of home ownership in the United States is at a record high, the availability of affordable housing continues to be a problem for low and moderate income persons in this state. This project will examine a variety of topics related to the availability of affordable housing, including financing issues, construction costs, technical construction issues, size, design, regulatory requirements, and market factors. The project will include a work session examining housing costs.

Number & Type of Meetings: Work Session on 9/21/04.

Completion Date: December 2004

Staff Assigned: Thamas Osborn
